

APRIL

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

APRIL MEETING

Date: Friday, April 13, 8:15 p.m.
Place: Morrison Auditorium
Speaker: Ernest P. Edwards
Subject: "MOTMOTS AND MAYAS"

In Mexico's Yucatan, there are bird-haunted jungles where the lost cities of a once great civilization lie in decay. The brilliant motmot, with its swinging tail, still lives among the ruins, one of many exotic flamboyant birds that flash across these ancient clearings.

At Chichén-Itzá, the golden-fronted woodpecker makes its home, and at Uxmal, the groove-billed anis flock in the orange trees. In colorful El Cuyo, brilliant flamingos nest by the thousands.

Dr. Edwards is Associate Director of the Houston Museum of Natural History. This Audubon Screen Tour is made possible by the Walter B. Scaife Foundation. (Members only)

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"STARLIGHT DETECTIVES (The Mystery of Starlight)" begins on April 3 and extends through May 13. Starlight has always held a fascination for astronomers and the methods they use to learn more about the sizes, distances, movements and chemical make-up of distant stars parallel methods used by detectives in solving a crime.

Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢

Performances: Monday..... Closed
Tuesday..... 3:30 p.m. only
Wed, Thurs, Fri. 3:30 & 8:30 p.m.
Sat, Sun.... 2:00, 3:30 & 8:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH: "MAMMOTH JAW" from the Academy collections. Main Foyer, Science Museum.

"9TH ANNUAL BAY AREA SCIENCE FAIR", a major event at the Academy. April 7 through 11. Lovell White Hall.

"WATER COLORS OF FISH FROM TROPICAL SEAS" by Toshio Asaeda. Also in Lovell White Hall.

"CALIFORNIA CALOCHORTUS", water color drawings by Mrs. Allen Chickering, Jr.. Eastwood Hall of Botany.

"SCIENCE IN ACTION"

Monday nights, 7:00 p.m., KRON-TV, Channel 4

April 2: "Periodontics", with Guest Scientist Alvin C. Hileman, D.M.D., University of California School of Dentistry

April 9: "1962 Science Fair" with top student winners of the Bay Area.

April 16: "The Age of Reptiles", with Dr. Earl S. Herald, California Academy of Sciences.

April 23: "Century 21 - Part I", the first of two special telecasts at the World's Fair in Seattle, Dr. Herald and Dr. Harvey E. White, University of California.

April 30: "Century 21 - Part II", continued World's Fair coverage and a close look at the U.S. Government Science Pavilion.

NEWS and NOTES

March 18 was official shuttering day for Steinhart Aquarium in order that Phase #2 of its rehabilitation could begin. Visitors from miles away came to take a last lingering look at one of the Academy's most popular features, and to many, the eventual re-opening of a new and up-dated Steinhart seemed a long way off.

There was much more in the way of preparations for the closing than met the casual eye. One particular problem was "Flippy", the giant loggerhead turtle. When "Flippy" originally arrived at the Academy from the Key West turtle kraals via Pacific Ocean Park in southern California, a spearhead was found to be lodged in the right side of his neck. No one on the Steinhart staff having had experience in anesthetizing turtles, extensive tests had to be run before surgery could be performed in order to remove the bothersome piece of metal (which proved to be a four-inch, barbed spearhead from an Arbalete gun).

It was finally decided that cold anesthesia, or hypothermy, was the best and least dangerous method. Dr. Earl S. Herald, Superintendent of the Aquarium, felt that the operation should be performed before "Flippy" was moved to his new quarters, since any untoward movement of the barb in his neck could prove to be fatal.

On Thursday, March 15, the 400-lb turtle went under the knife. His surgeon was Dr. Pieter

de Vries and the excision was performed under the full light of news and television cameras. It was a "rough go" for Flippy, for the night following the operation, he was, at one juncture, given up for dead. Even his obituary was in the process of being written. Dr. Herald and Dr. de Vries decided, even though it appeared "Flippy" was no more, to try artificial respiration by raising the turtle's carapace up and down, up and down, using it much like a bellows. After awhile, to the relief of all, it turned the trick.

The road to recovery is slow, but it looks right now as if "Flippy" is going to make it.

Dr. Edward S. Ross, Curator of the Department of Entomology, seems to be withstanding the rigors and vicissitudes of his long and arduous collecting trip to tropical Asia. A recent note from "Some town in Orissa" (India) to a member of the staff indicated that "Things are going quite well in spite of the dry season. We will now drive back across India via Nagpur to the east coast and then back to Poona via Hyderabad before touching southern India. We may have to leave out Ceylon because the ferry apparently doesn't take a vehicle as heavy as ours. If this is the case, we will go to Singapore a bit sooner".

Dr. Ross is travelling in company with Mrs. Ross, their son Clark, and David Cavagnaro, a student at the University of California at Davis. The party departed in July of 1961 and does not expect to return until December, 1962.

New permanent exhibits continue to appear in the Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany. Displays entitled "The Stem" and "Plant Dispersal" have been installed, and in a smaller case, an Academy-created reproduction of a California Pitcher Plant (Darlingtonia californica) may be examined and admired.

The Department of Exhibits now has in preparation displays on "The Root" and "The Flower" which will be added to those already on display in Botany Hall.

Dr. Robert I. Bowman, Research Associate at the Academy and Assistant Professor of Zoology at San Francisco State College, is well-known to Academy members for his previous appearances at monthly meetings and the presentation of his fascinating film, "The Galapagos: Treasure Islands of Science". Dr. Bowman's interest in the Galapagos has not abated. He has just returned from five months of research in this Ecuadorian possession, having spent the time in arduous pursuit of more information about Darwin's Finches.

His particular project at this time (made possible by a National Science Foundation grant) is a study of the evolution of vocal communication of birds in the Galapagos. In company with one assistant, Mr. Stephen Billeb, a graduate student at San Francisco State, Dr. Bowman recorded bird sounds and song on 100 reels of tape. With each tape running 15 minutes, Dr. Bowman commented that "I have enough research material to last me ten years!" The songs were recorded on various of the islands and from these recordings, Dr. Bowman hopes to determine how various bird dialects have been developed from island to island, and the nature of the differences.

On his return, Dr. Bowman brought back 100 live finches representing most of the species found on these fascinating islands. He anticipates raising families of them in captivity for further study.

Recent Scientific Publications of the California Academy of Sciences

Proceedings:

"On Some Earthworms of Eisen's Collection". G.E. Gates. Vol. XXXI, No. 8, March 7, 1962. \$1.00

"Pyrgomorphidae (Orthoptera: Acridoidea) Collected in Africa by E.S. Ross and R.E. Leech, 1957-1958, With Descriptions of New Species". Keith McE. Kevan. Vol. XXXI, No. 9, March 7, 1962. 75¢

"Flora and Vegetation of Clipperton Island". Marie-Hélène Sachet. Vol. XXXI, No. 10, March 7, 1962. \$1.50

Kenneth Lamott, one of the talented script writers for the Academy's "Science in Action" television series, is the author of the recently-published and highly-readable "Chronicles of San Quentin: The Biography of a Prison", David McKay Company, Inc..

Previously, Mr. Lamott's writing included two novels, "The Stockade" and "The White Sand of Shirahama", as well as a number of articles for The New Yorker, Harper's, The Yale Review, and Holiday Magazines.

Dr. Herman Sleumer of the Rijksherbarium, Leiden, Netherlands, was a recent visitor to the Department of Botany. He was en route home after a year's field work in New Guinea where he has been engaged in research on Melanesian flora.

(Continued on reverse)

Meet the Staff



LEWIS S. ROSE, Research Associate in the Department of Botany, has, over a period of thirty-two years, added approximately 100,000 specimens of plants to the Academy collections. By doing so, he has the distinction of having contributed more botanical specimens than any individual in Academy history.

A native San Franciscan, he wavered between botany and entomology while at the University of California at Berkeley but finally chose the former. Upon receiving his B.A., he spent a year in Japan doing research and collecting a wide variety of algae which he subsequently presented to his Alma Mater. World War I took up the next three years of his life. "My interest in botany contributed at least one definite thing to the Army", he remarked. "While undergoing basic training in the South, I kept a lot of recruits from getting poison ivy!"

During his service in Europe, the botany bug was still with him and, the rigors of war notwithstanding, he found time to do further collecting.

Various business ventures engrossed him after war's end, but his primary interest lay in botanical research. He first became associated with the Academy's herbarium in 1930, and his faithfulness to the CAS has never ceased. He is a member of the AAAS, the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, and the International Society of Plant Taxonomists.

Some ten plants have been named for him, including Castilleja Roseana (Indian Paint Brush), by Alice Eastwood; Arctostaphylos Rosei (Manzanita), also by Miss Eastwood; and Arenaria Rosei (Sandwort), by Maguire and Barneby. He is both a Life Member and Fellow of the Academy.

His wife, Dr. Elise Meyer Rose, is a well-known San Francisco physician. The Roses have almost encompassed the globe with their travels, the one area exception being South Africa.

Stamp collecting, gardening, reading, good food and wine have their attractions for Mr. Rose, but possibly his most joyous pursuit is taking copious color photographs of a beautiful little granddaughter.

NEWS and NOTES (Cont'd.)

Dr. Sleumer is a specialist in the Heather family, particularly the genus Rhododendron.

Due to a demonstration of added interest on the part of many members of the Academy, it has been decided to continue the monthly meetings of the Astronomy Section, usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The meeting in April, however, will be a "Star Party" on Saturday, April 28, 6:00 p.m. at Rock Springs (across from the outdoor theatre) on Mt. Tamalpais. Attendees are encouraged to dress in warm clothes and to bring their binoculars. Telescopes will be furnished, and coffee.

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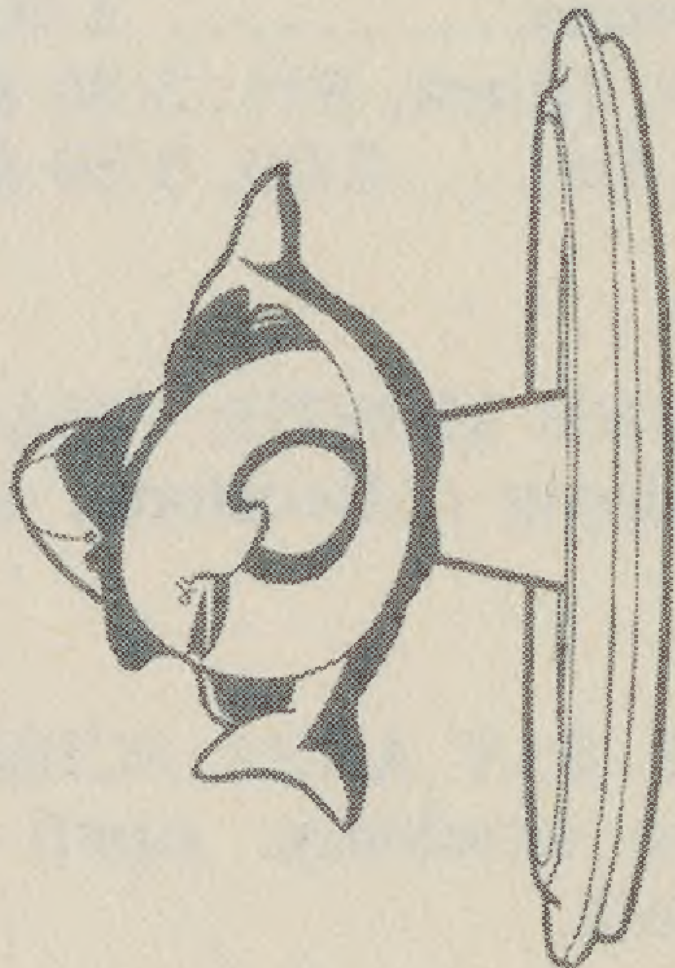
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